REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1-6 are rejected. Claims 1 is amended. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the application, for instance at page 7 (third full paragraph) of the specification which discloses the preparation of AlF_3 as catalyst and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims 1-6 are submitted for further consideration at this time. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,598,411). It is alleged that Miller et al. teaches or suggests each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention in a preferred embodiment is concerned with a process in gaseous phase to obtain CFC 113a starting from CFC 113, wherein CFC 113, optionally diluted with a gas inert under the reaction conditions, is let flow on a catalyst consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed. See claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that no such invention is taught or suggested in

the prior art. Applicants note that Miller et al. is directed to a process for preparing saturated perhalocarbons and more particularly to a process for preparing saturated perhalocarbons by intramolecular rearrangement. In clear contrast to the claimed invention, Miller et al. at col. 3 (lines 26-29) teaches that the catalyst employed for such process may be aluminum chloride, aluminum bromide or mixtures thereof, which may incorporate some other metal halides. However, as noted above, the claimed invention requires a catalyst consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed, and thus excludes the presence of catalytic materials other than aluminum fluoride. Miller et al. of course contains no teaching or suggestion concerning the exclusion of all other catalytic materials, in particular the preferred catalyst of $AlCl_3$, so as to form a catalyst consisting of aluminum fluoride, as required by the claimed invention. Applicants note that although Miller et al. might disclose aluminum fluoride as an optional carrier for the specifically listed catalysts, the reference contains absolutely no teaching or suggestion with respect to the use of aluminum fluoride in a catalyst, to the exclusion of other catalytic materials, in order to obtain a substantially quantitative conversion of CFC 113 to CFC 113a, as in the claimed invention. Therefore, in that the cited reference fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby

petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00052.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-Up Copy of Claim Amendments

MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 **(Amended).** A process in gaseous phase to obtain CFC 113a starting from CFC 113, wherein CFC 113, optionally diluted with a gas inert under the reaction conditions, is let flow on a catalyst [formed by] consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed.